Stealing of grains from PDS

1879. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of grains is stolen from Public Distribution System stores every year in the country;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken against the officials behind the corruption in PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. While the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of foodgrains upto the Principal Distribution Centres of FCI in each State/UT, the identification of BPL families, issue of ration cards, issue of licences to the Fair Price Shops and distribution of foodgrains to the beneficiaries is the responsibility of the respective State Government/ UTs. The System works through a vast net work of 4.77 lakhs Fair Price Shops scattered all over the country in 35 States and UTs besides the nominated State agencies etc. and can not be expected to be cent per cent fool proof. However, the Government has notified the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 on 31.08.2001, issued Citizen's Charter to all the States and has advised them to involve Panchayati Raj Institutions etc. to check malpractices.

VRS in FCI

1880. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Corporation of India has decided to offer VRS to ten thousand employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, sector-wise;

(c) whether FCI would be able to operate with depleted strength for more efficient performance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Food Corporation of India introduced Voluntary Retirement Scheme for its employees on 29th June, 2004, valid for three months, with a view to rationalising the manpower and reducing the establishment cost without compromising on the operational efficiency. Under the scheme 8,777 employees have taken voluntary retirement as under:

Category	No. of employees who took VRS
I	96
II	2057
III	4591
IV	2033

The operations of the FCI are being carried out smoothly within the available staff strength.

Import of raw sugar

1881. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed import of raw sugar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor in terms of domestic production and demand;

(c) the rate at which raw sugar is proposed to be imported and the sources thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to make the country self-reliant in sugar requirement?